

# The Adventures of the Count

## Secrets of the Extraordinary Career of Jacques Lebaudy

### Wife, Reveal Almost Incredible Exploits of This Real Personage Which Entirely Eclipse the Imagination of the Great Novelist

#### CHAPTER II

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THE repulse of Jacques Lebaudy's bold attempt to land an armed expedition on the coast of Africa and establish his Empire of Sahara was followed by his arrival in London, where he began to recruit a substantial army and navy to return and renew his conquest. In his imperial suite at the Hotel Savoy the self-created emperor worked day after day and far into the night attending to the minutest details of empire building.

Having converted into ready money a considerable number of the millions he had inherited from his father, the "sugar king" of France, Lebaudy was well supplied with funds. He ordered a magnificently jeweled crown

IN literature the "Adventures of the Count of Monte Cristo," by the great Dumas, stands out as a masterpiece of imagination. The marvelous, the extraordinary, the almost incredible exploits of this novelist's hero of fiction are the fascination of this great novel.

But this purely imaginative character of fiction HAS BEEN OUTDONE IN REAL LIFE BY A REAL CHARACTER.

For every exploit of the Count of Monte Cristo there is a real-life exploit to outmatch it by Jacques Lebaudy.

Monte Cristo had fabulous wealth; but Lebaudy was possessed of a real fortune far beyond the imaginary wealth accredited the hero of fiction.

The Count had one Parisian residence; Lebaudy maintained no less than seven elaborate residences in the most fashionable parts of Paris.

Monte Cristo accomplished many of his astonishing exploits by the skilful use of various disguises; Jacques Lebaudy out-rivaled him in variety of disguises, sometimes masquerading as a Field Marshal of France or hiding his identity disguised as a blind beggar or a Moorish brigand or shuffling along Fifth avenue in the ragged togs of a tramp.

The Count of Monte Cristo was an assumed title, for it pleased the fancy of this fiction hero to create for himself an imaginary domain and a title which did not exist; likewise Lebaudy was pleased to call himself the Emperor of Sahara, but here, again, Lebaudy excelled the imagination of the novelist, because Lebaudy actually undertook to establish a veritable empire in Africa.

While Monte Cristo contented himself with a card engraved with his fictitious title, Lebaudy printed imperial bank notes, engraved special postage stamps and issued proclamations under his imperial seal.

While Monte Cristo was content with a little imaginary principality on a small island, Lebaudy's imperial plans contemplated a great empire of thousands of miles with ambitious schemes of industrial development.

Monte Cristo's schemes involved him with the French Government; Lebaudy's schemes set both the French and Spanish governments by the ears.

The Count of Monte Cristo delighted in wearing the gay, pic-

turesque costume of the Moors. So, also, Lebaudy for months at a time discarded the clothing of his native France and arrayed himself in a red cap with long blue tassel, black vest embroidered with gold, pantaloons and gaiters of deep red richly embroidered, bright yellow slippers for his feet, around his waist a gorgeous sash of cashmere, while in his belt he carried a long crooked knife—the exact native garb of the Moors.

Monte Cristo cruised about the Mediterranean in a modest sailing vessel with a crew of half a dozen; Jacques Lebaudy cruised about the Mediterranean in a great steam yacht in royal luxury with a crew of a hundred officers and men.

If the Count of Monte Cristo suffered in his prison dungeon—so Lebaudy languished in prison and nearly died from starvation.

If the Count of Monte Cristo pursued his enemies relentlessly; so also did Lebaudy. With resourceful ingenuity he never failed to punish his enemies and seek the ruin of anybody who tried to interfere with him.

The Count accomplished the ruin of a great Parisian banking house that had interfered with his plans. Lebaudy undertook to destroy the business of his leading competitor, and succeeded so well that the suicide of his rival's general manager and disastrous financial loss to the Princess de Broglie and other women and men of high social position resulted.

Monte Cristo was accustomed to excite the cupidity of his enemies and cement the devotion of his friends by a display of a valuable gem. Lebaudy did precisely the same, but instead of a jewel, Lebaudy would draw from his satchel \$100,000 in gold pieces and stack them on the table.

The Count had a ward, a beautiful Greek girl, upon whom he lavished a fatherly affection; Lebaudy had a wonderfully beautiful Turkish girl whom he rescued from a harem and educated with parental solicitude.

And thus the parallel runs on and on—the real life of Jacques Lebaudy outmatching at every point Dumas's fantastic creation of fiction. The intimate and hitherto unpublished and unknown details of the career of this extraordinary man have been collected here and abroad by one who shared his secrets and will be told on this page from week to week.

"The surprised and unhappy Arab prisoner was ordered to approach the presence of His Imperial Majesty on his hands and knees with bowed head and eyes to the ground. Lebaudy had meanwhile found a member of his cosmopolitan expedition who could conduct a conversation in the native Arab tongue. This sailor, bedecked in special robes as royal interpreter, stood beside Lebaudy."

